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FROM THE SITUATION ROOM

TO GEN HAIG

TOHAK 45

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE

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NOVEMBER 22, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT:

INFORMATION ITEMS

SITUATION IN INDOCHINA: A TOTAL OF 61 U.S. ATTACK SORTIES WERE FLOWN AGAINST TARGETS IN NORTH VIETNAM; 194 U.S. AND 155 VNAF SORTIES WERE FLOWN IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THERE WERE 42 B-52 MISSIONS FLOWN IN NORTH VIETNAM, NONE IN CAMBODIA, AND SIX IN LAOS. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ENEMY KILLED THROUGHOUT SOUTH VIETNAM YESTERDAY WAS 349.

GROUND COMBAT ACTIVITY ALONG THE NORTHERN FRONT OF MILITARY REGION I WAS AT A LOW LEVEL. INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT ENEMY FORCES NORTH AND NORTHWEST OF QUANG TRI CITY ARE EXPERIENCING PERSONNEL SHORTAGES AND TRANSSHIPMENT PROBLEMS. ALTHOUGH RAINFALL WAS LIGHT YESTERDAY, MOST SUPPLY ROUTES AND AREAS OF OPERATION REMAIN INUNDATED. AIRBORNE TROOPS MADE PROGRESS TOWARD SECURING THE SOUTHERN THACH HAN RIVER BANK, WHILE OTHER AIRBORNE ELEMENTS CONCENTRATED ON REMOVING ENEMY POCKETS OF RESISTANCE AROUND FIRE SUPPORT BASES ANNE AND BARBARA. AN ARVN UNIT WAS HEAVILY ENGAGED NORTH OF BA TO LATE YESTERDAY, BUT RESULTS ARE NOT YBI AVAILABLE.

IN MILITARY REGION 2, WITH NO INCIDENTS REPORTED. RANGER AND ARVN UNITS ENGAGED AN ENEMY FORCE WHILE CLEARING ROUTE 19 EAST OF THANH AN DISTRICT TOWN AND KILLED 45 ENEMY WHILE LOSING THREE. THANH AN HAS BEEN RESUPPLIED BY HELICOPTER AND TRUCK CONVOY. FIRE SUPPORT BASE THANH GIAO WAS ALSO RESUPPLIED BY HELICOPTER. ATTACKS WEST OF THE BASE ON THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 20-21 RESULTED IN 91 ENEMY KILLED.

THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT COMBAT ACTIVITY REPORTED IN MILITARY REGION 3, WHILE IN MILITARY REGION 4, ENEMY-INITIATED ACTIVITY WAS AT ITS LOWEST LEVEL SINCE OCTOBER 2. A FRIENDLY-INITIATED CONTACT IN WESTERN KIEN HOA PROVINCE RESULTED IN HEAVY ENEMY LOSSES AND MODERATE FRIENDLY CASUALTIES.

THE FIRST CONVOY TO TRAVEL THE FULL LENGTH OF ROUTE 5 IN CAMBODIA SINCE THE ROAD WAS CLOSED IN MID-AUGUST LEFT PHNOM PENH YESTERDAY

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AND ARRIVED SAFELY IN BATTAMBANG WITHOUT INCIDENT. THE CONVOY IS TO RETURN TO THE CAPITAL WITH RICE. CONVOYS ARE ALSO TRAVELING BETWEEN KOMPONG SOM AND PHNOM PENH WITHOUT INCIDENT.

THE GOVERNMENT OPERATION TO REGAIN TERRITORY NORTHEAST OF LUANG PRABANG IN LAOS HAS ACHIEVED LIMITED GAINS AGAINST MODERATE ENEMY OPPOSITION. PRELIMINARY REPORTS INDICATE THAT FRIENDLY TROOPS HAVE RETAKEN SARAVANE IN THE PANHANDLE. NORTH VIETNAM HAS DEPLOYED ANOTHER ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY REGIMENT INTO SOUTHERN LAOS, THE THIRD TO MOVE THERE IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IS AT TAB A.

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